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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of
Burbank et al.

For: **TISSUE ACQUISITION SYSTEM
AND METHOD OF USE**

Serial No.: 09/981,525

Filed: October 16, 2001

Atty. Docket No.: 9619-1031

) Examiner: Not Assigned

) Group Art Unit: 3736

) Customer No.: 23422

) **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 16, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following paragraph:

Figure 5d illustrates a cutting loop 186 in accordance with yet another embodiment. Cutting loop 186 includes an end 188, two radial legs 190, 192 and a middle portion 193 between the radial legs. Middle portion 193, as illustrated in Figure 5d, curves along a radius R_c , although middle portion 193 can alternatively extend linearly between radial legs 190, 192. Radial legs 190, 192 extend generally linearly, so that when cannula 102 is used to gather a plurality of tissue samples around the cannula, the unsampled space around the cannula is minimized.

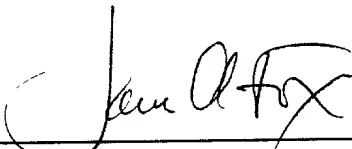
IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Fig. 5d to label the middle portion of cutting loop 186 as "193" as shown in the formal drawings accompanying this amendment. A copy of the drawing as originally filed is also included, with the correction shown in red.

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested. As amended, in Figure 5d the middle portion of cutting loop 186 is indicated by number 193 to avoid duplication with number 194 used to indicate an end plug in Figs. 6a and 6b. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification and figures as filed. No new matter is introduced by the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP COPY OF THE CHANGES MADE IN THE SPECIFICATION

(Deleted words are [bracketed] and inserted words are underlined.)

On page 16, the paragraph beginning on line 8:

Figure 5d illustrates a cutting loop 186 in accordance with yet another embodiment. Cutting loop 186 includes an end 188, two radial legs 190, 192 and a middle portion [194] 193 between the radial legs. Middle portion [194] 193, as illustrated in Figure 5d, curves along a radius R_c , although middle portion 193 can alternatively extend linearly between radial legs 190, 192. Radial legs 190, 192 extend generally linearly, so that when cannula 102 is used to gather a plurality of tissue samples around the cannula, the unsampled space around the cannula is minimized.

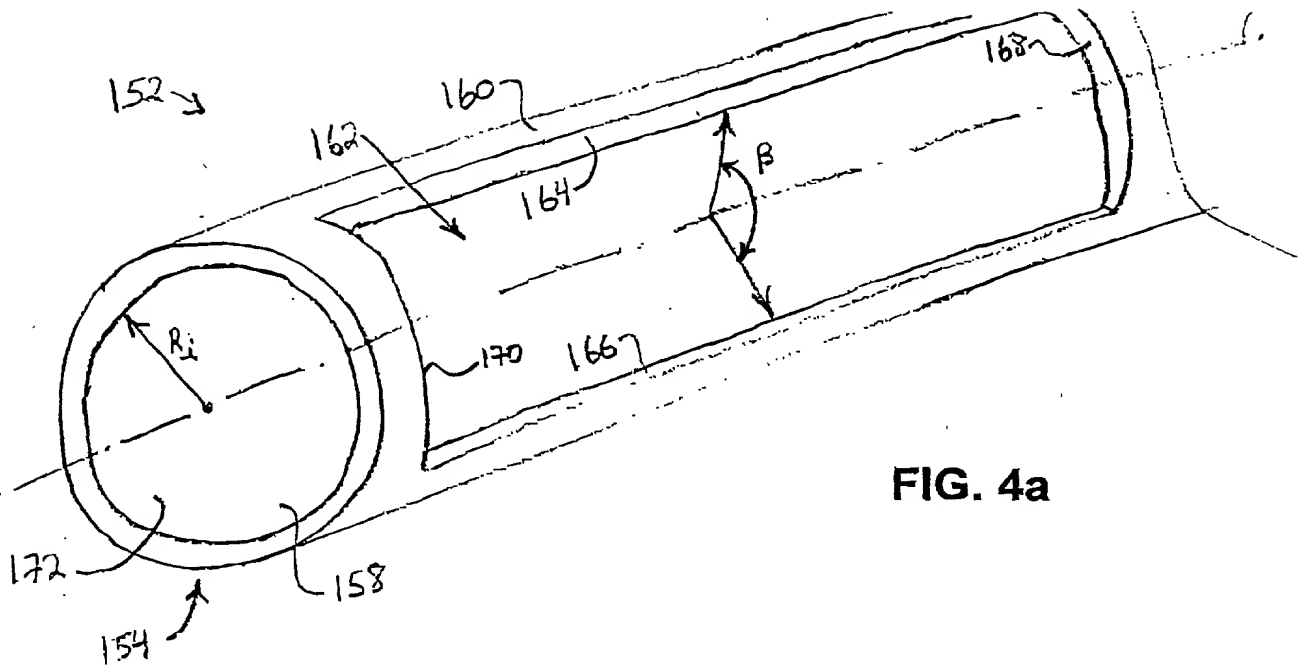


FIG. 4a

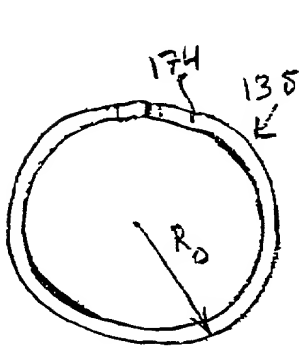


FIG. 5a

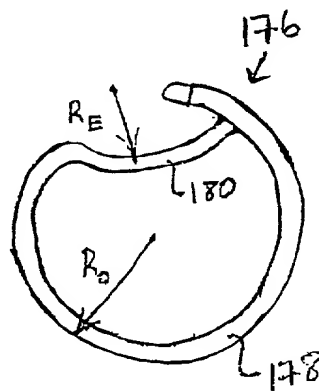


FIG. 5b

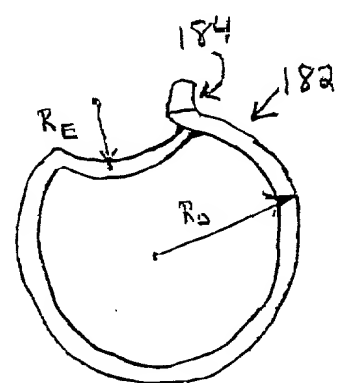


FIG. 5c

FIG. 5d

